GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:915
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2003
INCREASE IN TRAFFIC DUE TO LOW FARE
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to sharp drop in air fares and introduction of low budget travel packages by domestic carriers, there has been a sharp rise in passenger traffic;

(b) if so, the extent of rise in traffic;

(c) whether foreign airlines of the neighbouring Sri Lanka and other far-eastern countries are luring Indian tourists with low-budget holiday packages abroad on fares equivalent to long-haul domestic sectors; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to prevent domestic tourists from being lured away by foreign carriers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a) & (b) With the introduction of APEX Fare Schemes andother value added products by various domestic airlines, there has been an increase of 5.07 lakhs in passenger traffic in the year 2002 as compared to the year 2001.

(c) Some foreign airlines have offered low fares with holiday packages.

(d) Indian Airlines maintain their services competitively by upgrading and adding value to their products and by introduction of promotional fares. Indian Airlines has also introduced `Packaged Tour for Promotion of Domestic Tourism` with effect from 1st March,2002 and the APEX Fare Scheme has been extended upto 31st March,2003.